

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

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Inspection and/or modifications described below are mandatory. No person may operate a product to which this Airworthiness Directive applies except in accordance with the requirements of this Airworthiness Directive.

**Translation of 'Consigne de Navigabilité' ref. : 2003-393(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.**

AIRBUS

A340-200/-300 aircraft

Main and centre landing gear (MLG/CLG) -
Modification to the wheel assemblies (ATA 32)

1. APPLICABILITY:

AIRBUS A340 aircraft models -211, -212, -213, -311, -312 and -313, all serial numbers, fitted with Messier-Goodrich MLG/CLG wheel assemblies (PN) 3-1509-2.

Aircraft on which Service Bulletin (SB) AIRBUS A340-32-4206 has been embodied in service are not affected by this Airworthiness Directive (AD).

2. REASONS:

Operators of A330 aircraft fitted with Messier-Goodrich wheels PN 3-1509-2 have reported tie bolts (inboard and outboard rim attachment bolts) to be broken or missing from the MLG wheel assemblies. In some cases, the wheels have ruptured and caused damage to other equipment in the adjacent area.

Investigations found that the tie bolts had ruptured due to fatigue failure. A tie bolt subsequently came out of the tie bolt hole. The free migration of the tie bolt could lead to the tie bolt puncturing the inner wheel hub and subsequently result in wheel rim release, which may be a potentially critical situation.

In order to avoid the migration of the tie bolt in case of rupture and prevent any possible damage to the wheel/brake assembly, this AD renders mandatory the modification of wheel assemblies by introducing lockplates.

3. MANDATORY ACTIONS AND COMPLIANCE TIMES:

The following measures are rendered mandatory from the effective date of this AD:

Unless already accomplished,

No later than October 31, 2004, modify the wheel assemblies PN 3-1509-2 of the MLG/CLG in accordance with the instructions of AIRBUS SB A340-32-4206. The modified wheel assemblies PN becomes 3-1509-3.

Note: Installation of wheel assemblies PN 3-1509-2 is not allowed from November 1st, 2004.

REF.: AIRBUS Service Bulletin A340-32-4206
(Any later approved revision of this SB is acceptable).

EFFECTIVE DATE : NOVEMBER 08, 2003